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to: Urgent Care Staff

date: **January 16, 2013**

from: Barb Shellian  
Director - Bow Valley Community and Rural Health  
Alberta Health Services Calgary Zone

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re: **Budget decisions 2013 - 2014**

As we are all aware, there is a significant amount of discussion within the Calgary Zone related to financial pressures and issues related to budget for 2013 – 2014. Providing safe, high quality patient care, while living within our financial means, is a top priority for AHS. Although there has been an overall increase in funding to Alberta Health Services, all program areas are being asked to operate within their allocated budgets and to examine opportunities to improve efficiencies and save funds to reinvest in high priority services areas. This year AHS set a target of \$185M of savings by reducing duplication and where possible, streamlining our programs to work within our allocated budget. Every area was asked to identify savings overall of 1.8 percent which has allowed us to re-allocate and make these strategic investments.

The amount of savings required for this upcoming budget year necessitate some very strong measures to meet the targets – things we do not necessarily want to do but quite frankly need to do to meet the requirements. One of the measures that will be implemented for Urgent Care is the elimination of the Nurse Practitioner positions for Cochrane and Airdrie. This will be effective March 31, 2013. I want to reiterate that this measure in no way reflects on the value or competence of the Nurse Practitioners – it is purely, simply and unfortunately related to budget.

We will be making every effort to find jobs for those whose positions have been impacted and our physician colleagues at Cochrane and Airdrie will be filling the shifts that are left vacant.

